

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Purpose and Need for Action	2
1.3	Location and Setting	2
1.4	Project and Facilities Descriptions.....	3
1.4.1	Relevant Upper Snake River Storage Division, Minidoka Project, Facilities.....	3
1.4.2	Relevant Lower Teton Division, Teton Basin Project, Facilities	5
1.5	Regulatory Compliance.....	6
1.5.1	National Environmental Policy Act.....	6
1.5.2	Endangered Species Act	6
1.5.3	Secretary's Native American Trust Responsibilities	6
1.5.4	National Historic Preservation Act.....	7
1.5.5	Executive Order 13007: Indian Sacred Sites	7
1.5.6	Executive Order 12898: Environmental Justice	7
1.5.7	Reclamation Reform Act	7
1.6	Similar or Related Actions	8
Chapter 2	Description of the Alternatives	9
2.1	Alternative A – No Action	9
2.2	Alternative B – Title Transfer	10
2.2.1	Facilities and Lands	10
2.2.2	Teton Exchange Wells	10
2.2.3	Limitations and Liability	11
2.2.4	Water Supply to District Lands	12
2.2.5	Drought Management Plan	12
Chapter 3	Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	15
3.1	Water Rights.....	15
3.1.1	Affected Environment.....	15
3.1.2	Environmental Consequences.....	16
3.2	Hydrology	17

Table of Contents

3.2.1	Affected Environment.....	17
3.2.2	Environmental Consequences.....	24
3.3	Power Generation.....	38
3.3.1	Affected Environment.....	38
3.3.2	Environmental Consequences.....	38
3.4	Land Use	41
3.4.1	Affected Environment.....	41
3.4.2	Environmental Consequences.....	42
3.5	Socioeconomics.....	42
3.5.1	Affected Environment.....	42
3.5.2	Environmental Consequences.....	47
3.6	Recreation	51
3.6.1	Affected Environment.....	51
3.6.2	Environmental Consequences.....	52
3.7	Environmental Justice	52
3.7.1	Affected Environment.....	52
3.7.2	Environmental Consequences.....	52
3.8	Water Quality	53
3.8.1	Affected Environment.....	53
3.8.2	Environmental Consequences.....	56
3.9	Vegetation	56
3.9.1	Affected Environment.....	56
3.9.2	Environmental Consequences.....	56
3.10	Fisheries	57
3.10.1	Affected Environment.....	57
3.10.2	Environmental Consequences.....	58
3.11	Wildlife	60
3.11.1	Affected Environment.....	60
3.11.2	Environmental Consequences.....	60
3.12	Endangered Species	61
3.12.1	Affected Environment.....	61
3.12.2	Environmental Consequences.....	62
3.13	Hazardous Materials and Waste.....	63
3.14	Cultural Resources	64
3.14.1	Affected Environment.....	64

Table of Contents

3.14.2 Environmental Consequences.....	65
3.15 Sacred Sites	66
3.15.1 Affected Environment.....	66
3.15.2 Environmental Consequences.....	67
3.16 Indian Trust Assets.....	67
3.16.1 Affected Environment.....	67
3.16.2 Environmental Consequences.....	68
3.17 Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Alternative	69
Chapter 4 Coordination and Consultation	71
4.1 Agency Consultation.....	71
4.1.1 National Historic Preservation Act	71
4.1.2 Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations	72
4.1.3 Drought Management Planning	72
4.2 Tribal Coordination and Consultation.....	73
4.3 Public Involvement	73
Distribution List	75
References.....	81

Appendices

- Appendix A. Fremont-Madison Conveyance Act
- Appendix B. Memorandum of Agreement: Reclamation and Fremont-Madison Irrigation District
- Appendix C. Memorandum of Agreement: Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and Twin Falls Canal Company and North Side Canal Company
- Appendix D. Hazardous Materials and Waste Survey
- Appendix E. Transfer of Title of United States Ownership Interests in Cross Cut Diversion Dam and Canal, and the Teton Wells, to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District; May 5, 2003, letter to Ms. Suzi Neitzel, Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer.
- Appendix F. Memorandum of Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer
- Appendix G. ESA-related Correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service

Table of Contents

Appendix H. Letters to and Meetings with Tribal Governments

Appendix I. Public Comment Letters and Responses

List of Figures

<i>Figure</i>		<i>Page</i>
Figure 1.	Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties, Idaho.....	2
Figure 2.	Cross Cut Diversion Dam.	3
Figure 3.	Cross Cut Canal radial headgate.	3
Figure 4.	Location of gaging stations, major canals, and Teton Exchange Wells on and near the Henrys Fork of the Snake River.....	17
Figure 5.	Average monthly flows at three gaging stations on the Henrys Fork of the Snake River from 1977 to 2002.....	19
Figure 6.	Average monthly flow in the Teton River (from gaging stations at Rexburg and Teton, respectively) from 1977 to 2002.....	19
Figure 7.	Combined average monthly flow in St. Anthony Union Feeder, Independent Canal, Egin Canal, and Consolidated Farmers Ditch from 1977 to 2002.....	20
Figure 8.	Computed average monthly gains from groundwater to the Henrys Fork reach between St. Anthony and Rexburg from 1977 to 2002.....	21
Figure 9.	Total Teton Exchange Well pumping by trimester from 1977 to 2002.....	22
Figure 10.	Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) model grid cells.	25
Figure 11.	Teton Exchange Wells and FMID in relation to the SPA model grid.	26
Figure 12.	Historical pumping from Teton Exchange Wells and net depletion of Snake River flow.....	28
Figure 13.	Negative effects of exchange well pumping and positive effects of increased aquifer recharge on Snake River flows.	29
Figure 14.	Gaged flow in the Henrys Fork at Rexburg.	30

Table of Contents

Figure 15.	Depletion of Snake River flow at Lewisville assuming continuation of current exchange well operations through 2028 under the No Action alternative.....	31
Figure 16.	Exceedance curves for exchange well pumping and depletion of Snake River flow under the No Action alternative.....	32
Figure 17.	Depletion of Snake River flow at Lewisville assuming 80,000 acre feet of exchange well pumping during very low water years.	33
Figure 18.	Net reduction in Snake River flow at Lewisville assuming 80,000 acre-feet of exchange well pumping during very low water years.	34
Figure 19.	Alternative B exceedance curves for expanded exchange well pumping and depletion of Snake River flow.....	35
Figure 20.	Columbia River and Snake River hydropower dams below FMID.....	38
Figure 21.	Probability and volume of Teton Exchange Well pumping (this may overstate future pumping).	48
Figure 22.	Probability and volume of Teton Exchange Well depletions in the Snake River at Lewisville (this may overstate future pumping).	50
Figure 23.	Average nitrate (as N) concentrations in the groundwater of the action area. The five Teton Exchange Wells are also shown.	54
Figure 24.	Annual nitrate loading in the Henrys Fork of the Snake River at Rexburg. Loading contributed by the Teton Exchange Wells for the same years is illustrated in yellow. Potential nitrate loading if the 80,000 acre-feet of water is developed is illustrated in red.	55
Figure 25.	Average monthly temperature of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River at Rexburg as well as the average monthly temperature of groundwater wells within a 2-mile radius of the Teton Exchange Wells.	55

Table of Contents

List of Tables

<i>Table</i>		<i>Page</i>
Table 1.	Relevant facilities in the Upper Snake River Storage Division, Minidoka Project.....	4
Table 2.	Description of the Teton Exchange Wells.....	5
Table 3.	Teton Exchange Wells usage rates (in acre-feet) since 1977 (source: FMID 2003).....	23
Table 4.	Modeled flow changes (in cfs) at Lewisville from Teton Well expansion.....	36
Table 5.	Modeled flow changes (in cfs) at Milner from Teton Well expansion.....	37
Table 6.	Computed total hydropower losses (kilowatt-hours) from expanded well use (assuming historic reservoir regulation 1980 through 2000 and computed decreases in flow at Lewisville).....	40
Table 7.	Population and area details for Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	43
Table 8.	Personal income details for Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	43
Table 9.	Major industries in Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	44
Table 10.	Employment by type in Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	44
Table 11.	Employment by industry in Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties in 2000.....	45
Table 12.	Farm and crop data for Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	46
Table 13.	Major crops grown in Fremont, Madison, and Teton Counties.....	47
Table 14.	Mountain whitefish per kilometer in four Henrys Fork reaches.....	57
Table 15.	Trout per kilometer in four Henrys Fork reaches and the South Fork Snake River.....	58
Table 16.	Historical temperature, flow, and rate data for selected Teton Exchange Wells.....	59

Table of Contents

Table 17.	Game species that may occur in the action area.	60
Table 18.	USFWS listed species that may occur in the action area.	61
Table 19.	State of Idaho species of concern that may occur in the action area.	61
Table 20.	NOAA Fisheries listed species that may be affected by the proposed action.	62

Table of Contents
